

REMARKS

This amendment is being submitted to remove all multiple dependent claims which were presented during the international phase of the PCT for this application and examined as a part of the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) and stamped "05 12 2000" by the EPO. The specific changes made to the IPER claims are shown in Appendix A attached herewith. Applicants do not wish to present the multiple dependent claims during the United States national phase. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered and that the present application is in all respects complete and in condition for favorable consideration. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendments presented herein, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Amendments to the Claims Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Claim 1 remains unchanged.

1 1. A system (1) for detecting the presence of moisture, comprising at least one
2 electronic sensor (2.i) for detecting the presence of moisture and at least one reading device (4.1)
3 for obtaining information from the at least one sensor about the presence of moisture, wherein the
4 at least one sensor (2.i) comprises a resonant circuit (6) which is at least partly formed from a
5 moisture sensitive material (8), the electrical resistance of which changes when the material (8)
6 comes into contact with moisture, the reading device (4.1) comprises means (14) for generating
7 an electromagnetic interrogation field comprising at least one frequency component
8 corresponding to a resonance frequency of the resonant circuit (6) and for recording the response
9 of the at least one sensor (2.i) to the electromagnetic interrogation field to obtain information
10 about the presence of moisture at the at least one sensor, characterized in that, the electrical
11 resistance of the material (8) increases when the material comes into contact with moisture and
12 the reading device (4.1) comprising transmitter-receiver means (14) for wirelessly generating the
13 electromagnetic interrogation field and for wirelessly recording the response of the at least one
14 sensor (2.i) to the electromagnetic interrogation field to obtain the information about the presence
15 of moisture at the at least one sensor (2.i) if the at least one sensor (2.i) is wirelessly brought into
16 the electromagnetic interrogation field.

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Claim 2 remains unchanged.

1 2. A system according to claim 1, characterized in that the moisture sensitive material
2 (8) is included in the resonant circuit (6) in such a manner that the Q factor of the resonant circuit
3 (6) decreases when the resistance of the moisture sensitive material (8) increases.

Claim 3 remains unchanged.

1 3. A system according to claim 1, characterized in that the moisture sensitive material
2 (8) is included in the resonant circuit (6) in such a manner that the Q factor of the resonant circuit
3 (6) increases when the resistance of the moisture sensitive material (8) increases.

Claim 4 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **4. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized
2 in that the resonant circuit at (6) least comprises an LC circuit (10,12).

Claim 5 remains unchanged.

1 **5.** A system according to claim 4, characterized in that the entire LC circuit (10,12)
2 or at least part of the LC circuit (10,12) is built up from the moisture sensitive material (8).

Claim 6 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **6. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized
2 in that the moisture sensitive material (8) comprises a binding agent capable of swelling in
3 moisture, in which binding agent electrically conductive particles are included.

Claim 7 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **7. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized
2 in that the moisture sensitive material (8) comprises a binding agent in which particles capable of
3 swelling in moisture and electrically conductive particles are included.

Claim 8 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **8. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized
2 in that the moisture sensitive material (8) is arranged on a carrier material in the form of a coating.

Claim 9 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **9. (Amended)** A system according to [claims 4 and 8] claim 4, characterized in that at
2 least part of the LC circuit (10,12) is formed by the coating.

Claim 10 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **10. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1,
2 characterized in that the transmitter-receiver means (14) are designed as a transmission system for
3 detecting an electromagnetic response signal generated by the at least one sensor (2.i), in response
4 to the electromagnetic interrogation field.

Claim 11 remains unchanged.

1 **11.** A system according to claim 10, characterized in that, in use, the reading device
2 (4.1) determines on the basis of the intensity of the detected response signal to what extent the at
3 least one sensor (2.i) is in contact with moisture.

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Claim 12 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **12. (Amended)** A system according to [claims 2 and 11] claim 2, characterized in that the
2 reading device (4.1) comprises a threshold circuit to determine whether the detected intensity is
3 below a predetermined value.

Claim 13 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **13. (Amended)** A system according to [any of claims 1-9] claim 1, characterized in that
2 the transmitter-receiver means (14) are designed as an absorption system for detecting energy
3 taken up from the interrogation field by the at least one sensor (2.i) in response to the
4 electromagnetic interrogation field.

Claim 14 remains unchanged.

1 **14.** A system according to claim 13, characterized in that, in use, the reading device
2 (4.1) determines on the basis of the amount of energy absorbed by the at least one sensor (2.i) to
3 what extent the at least one sensor (2.i) is in contact with moisture.

Claim 15 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **15. (Amended)** A system according to [claims 2 and 13] claim 2, characterized in that the
2 reading device (4.1) comprises a threshold circuit (18) to determine whether the amount of energy
3 absorbed is below a predetermined value.

Claim 16 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **16. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1,
2 characterized in that the reading device (4.1) generates an alarm-signal when moisture is detected
3 by means of the at least one sensor.

Claim 17 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **17. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1,
2 characterized in that the system (1) is also designed as an identification system in which the at
3 least one sensor (2.i) comprises a microprocessor (22) connected with the resonant circuit (6), in
4 which microprocessor (22) an identification code is stored, which identification code is passed to
5 the resonant circuit (6) when the resonant circuit (6) is resonated by the electromagnetic
6 interrogation field, and the reading device (4.1) being arranged to read the identification code by
7 means of the electromagnetic interrogation field.

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Claim 18 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **18. (Amended)** A system according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1,
2 characterized in that the system further comprises a central control unit (24) which is, optionally
3 wirelessly, connected with the at least one reading device (4.1) for obtaining information about
4 the presence of moisture at the at least one sensor (2.i).

Claim 19 has been amended in this amendment.

1 **19. (Amended)** A sensor (2.i) of the system according to [any of the preceding claims]
2 claim 1.

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